(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b)An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGM) constituted by the Goverment has decided to restart the Dabhol Project and has suggested a restructuring package, the implementation of which would be carried out through the formation of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). GAIL, along with NTPC and Indian lenders, has been advised to participate in the project SPV, NTPC, GAIL and Indian lenders would require to contribute to the tune of Rs. 500 crore each towards the equity of the project SPV. GAIL has been advised to seek approval of its Board about investment in the project.

(c) and (d) GAIL would undertake Gas/LNG related activites in the project, *viz.,* activities within its core competence.

(e) No, Sir, not to the best of the knowledge of the Ministry.

(f) Does not arise.

**Decline in LPG demand**

†2273. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for LPG has been rising in the country continuously;

(b) if so, the assessment with regard to its average annual growth rate during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that this demand is likely to come down in the year 2004-05;

(d) if so, the estimated growth rate of the demand; and

(e) the reasons for the decrease in the demand?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The demand of LPG has grown at the following rate during the period, 2001-02 to 2003-04:—

| Year | % growth |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 10.1 |
| 2002-03 | 8.1 |
| 2003-04 | 11.4 |

The average growth in demand per annum, during the period 2001—04 comes to 9.87%.

(c) to (e) As per provisional figures for the period April, 2004 to February, 2005, LPG demand grew by about 9.9% as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Thus, the growth is somewhat below the average growth during the last 3 years. While the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are meeting the domestic LPG demand of genuine customers, they are also strictly monitoring the supplies with a view to curbing the diversion of this product for unauthorized uses. This has moderated the growth of demand for domestic LPG.

**Utilisation of oil industry development Cess**

†2274. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 51,000 crore recovered in the form of oil industry development cess in deposited with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the policy adopted for utilization of the cess amount by Government; and

(d) the amount allocated from this fund for oil industry development during the year 2003-04?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.